

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00479 311429Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /085 W

-----058973 010554Z /23

R 311351Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1752

INFO AMEMBSSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRTORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 00479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ, MI, PINT

SUBJ: FALSE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING MALAWI BY MARCELINO DOS SANTOS
DURING MEETING WITH CODEL DIGGS

CAPE TOWN FOREMBASSY

REF: (AL MAPUTO 370; (B) LILONGWE 414; (C) LILONGWE 60

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES DOS SANTOS' STATEMENTS (REF A) ARE BIASED AND WARRANT MORE CAREFUL SCRUTINY. PUBLICLY PRESIDENT BANDA HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO ENDORSE THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA OR OTHERWISE INDICATE SUPPORT FOR IAN SMITH (REF B).

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MOZAMBIQUAN REFUGEES ARE RESIDING IN MALAWI, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GOM SUPPORTS ANY TYPE OF MILITARY SUBVERSION AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE. AT THE SAME TIME, GOM HAS INDICATED ITS
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CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE ANTI-MALAWIAN GROUPS RESIDING IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THERE IS PROBABLY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BORDER ECONNOITEING BY BOTH SIDES.

3. THE CHARGE THAT MALAWI IS COMMITTING ECONOMIC SUBVERSION AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE IS ABSURD. MALAWI'S ECONOMY IS COMPLETELY VULNERABLE TO MOZAMBIQUE'S CONTROL OF OUTLETS TO THE SEA. GOM HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CORRECT

AND CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS DEALINGS WITH MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT OVER PAST TWO YEARS. A GOM DECISION NOT TO TAKE PUBLIC ACTION RE MOZAMBIQUE SEIZURE ON LAKE MALAWI OF BADLY-NEEDED TANKER IN DECEMBER IS ILLUSTRATION OF EXTREME CAUTION WITH WHICH MALAWI HANDLES ALL MATTERS AFFECTING MOZAMBIQUE (REF C).

4. IT IS TRUE THAT THE AVERAGE MALAWIAN LIVES MUCH BETTER THAN HIS COUNTERPART IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MOZAMBIQUE TRAFFIC ACROSS THE BORDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUYING AND SELLING PRODUCTS AND FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN MALAWI. HOWEVER, DOS SANTOS APPARENTLY WISHES TO DISCREDIT MALAWI FURTHER IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD AND HAS RESORTED TO PROPAGANDA WHICH HE HOPES IF REPEATED OFTEN ENOUGH WILL BE ACCEPTED AS ESTABLISHED FACTS.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, CODELS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LILONG00479
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780141-0775
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978034/aaaaacyt.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2979c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MAPUTO 370, 78 LILONGWE 414, 78 LILONGWE 60
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3246450
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FALSE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING MALAWI BY MARCELINO DOS SANTOS DURING MEETING WITH CODEL DIGGS CAPE TOWN FOREMBASSY
TAGS: PINT, MZ, MI, (DIGGS, CHARLES C JR), (DOS SANTOS, MARCELINO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2979c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014